

Intel Corporation
4030 Lafayette Center Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

JAN 25 2006

Page 1 of 6

FAX

Urgent and Confidential

Date: January 25, 2006

TO: USPTO
Examiner
Art Unit
Fax Number
Mail Stop: Appeal Brief - Patents
X. Chung Trans
2833
571-273-8300

FROM: Paul E. Steiner
Fax Number 703-633-3303
Phone Number 703-633-6830

SUBJECT: Application Number 10/689,789
Inventor(s) Brent A. Hill, et al.
Date Filed October 20, 2003
Docket Number P17630
Title Multi-Axis Retention Mechanism

INCLUDED IN THIS TRANSMISSION:

Fax Cover Sheet	1 page
Transmittal	1 page
Reply Brief	4 pages

I hereby certify that the above listed correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO to:
Commissioner for Patents, PO BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 25, 2006

Cathy Dikes Cathy Dikes

Important Notice

This information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named on this transmittal sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this faxed information is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify the sender by telephone immediately so that arrangements can be made for the retrieval of the original document at no cost to you.

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

09:51:24 a.m.

01-25-2006

2 / 6

JAN 25 2006

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

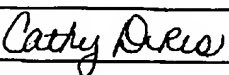
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>	Application Number	10/689,789	
	Filing Date	October 20, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Brent A. Hill, et al.	
	Art Unit	2833	
	Examiner Name	X. Chung Trans	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	6	Attorney Docket Number	P17630

ENCLOSURES <small>(Check all that apply)</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Fax cover sheet
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Intel Americas		
Signature	/Paul E. Steiner/		
Printed name	Paul E. Steiner		
Date	January 25, 2006	Reg. No.	41,326

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:			
Signature			
Typed or printed name	Cathy Dikes	Date	January 25, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

09:51:48 a.m.

01-25-2006

3 /6

JAN 25 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Brent A. Hill, et al.

Serial No.: 10/689,789

Group Art Unit: 2833

Filed: October 20, 2003

Examiner: X. Chung Trans

FOR: MULTI-AXIS RETENTION MECHANISM

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.41, Applicant submits this reply brief, in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed November 25, 2005.

All arguments in Applicants' Appeal Brief, filed August 22, 2005, are herein incorporated into this Reply Brief.

In numbered paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner incorrectly states that there has been no decision in any related case which may have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present appeal. What the Examiner fails to mention is that in a related case, U.S. Application No. 10/404,975, filed March 31, 2003, the review panel required that the Examiner re-open prosecution of that case because of comparable deficiencies in the Examiner's office actions.

What the Examiner further fails to mention, is that in this related case, the Examiner made a substantially similar rejection based on the Chen reference, which was

P17630

P17630

Serial No.: 10/689,789

subsequently withdrawn in response to applicants arguments, which are substantially similar to those made in the present application.

Following being informed of the panel's decision to re-open prosecution, Applicants notified the Examiner by telephone to remind the Examiner of this pending appeal. Applicants fully expected that at a minimum the prosecution would likewise be re-opened. In any event, applicants are entitled to consistent treatment. The present appeal should not go forward on the basis of a rejection which was correctly withdrawn in the related case. If the appeal does go forward, the Board should accept the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection over Chen in the related case as an admission that the present claims are patentable over Chen.

In numbered paragraph 10, the Examiner purports to respond to applicants' arguments but does so only selectively and incompletely. The Board should consider that the Examiner has conceded all of applicants' argument which the Examiner fails to address or rebut in any way.

In any event, the factual findings by the Examiner with respect to Chen are clearly erroneous and, accordingly, the issue before the Board is simple. If the Examiner is correct that the connector housing in Chen contacts both sides of the card in Chen, then the rejection should be affirmed. However, if the Examiner is incorrect, then the rejection should be reversed.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner incorrectly states that Figs. 7A-7D of Chen do not show 'the end walls (36) or the restriction wall (48).' In fact, these elements are shown in each view of Figs. 7A - 7D. Element 48 is illustrated in each of Figs. 7A - 7D, and explicitly labeled in Fig. 7D (as shown below). Likewise, end wall 36 is illustrated in each of Figs. 7A-7D, although not explicitly labeled. As annotated below, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that end wall 36 corresponds to the drawing element annotated below. Likewise, one of ordinary skill in the art would

P17630

Serial No.: 10/689,789

appreciate that neither the wall 48 nor the end wall 36 contact the card 102, and in fact there is substantial clearance between the end wall 36 and the card 102.

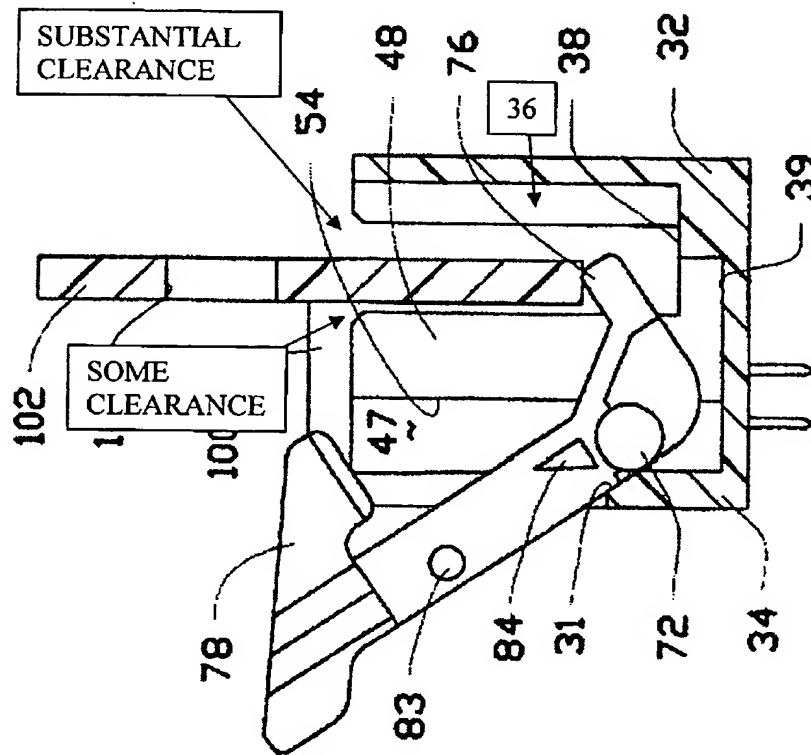


FIG. 7(D)

The Examiner further states that 'Figs. 3, 3A, and 6 are the true representation of the claimed guide ...' Applicants do not understand what the Examiner means by this statement. All of the figures of Chen are considered to be accurate representations of the connector 30 described in Chen. In connection with the presently claimed invention, Figs. 7A-7D are the most relevant figures because they illustrate the detailed construction of the connector 30 and its relationship to the card 102. Taken together with the textual description, it is clear that the Examiner has made clearly erroneous factual findings with respect to the teachings of the reference, and the rejection should be reversed.

P17630

Serial No.: 10/689,789

In view of the foregoing, together with Applicants' Appeal Brief, favorable reconsideration and reversal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner and / or the Board is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

January 25, 2006

Date

/Paul E. Steiner/

Paul E. Steiner

Reg. No. 41,326

(703) 633 - 6830

Intel Americas

LF3

4030 Lafayette Center Drive

Chantilly, VA 20151